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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/022,443	12/20/2001	Randal L. Dunn	95-474	5112
23164	7590	06/30/2006	EXAMINER HAILE, FEBEN	
LEON R TURKEVICH 2000 M STREET NW 7TH FLOOR WASHINGTON, DC 200363307			ART UNIT 2616	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 06/30/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/022,443

Applicant(s)

DUNN ET AL.

Examiner

Feben M. Haile

Art Unit

2616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 February 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,6-11,16-21,26-31 and 36-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2-5, 12-15, 22-25, and 32-35 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 December 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. In view of applicant's amendment filed February 17, 2006, the status of the application is still pending with respect to claims 1-40.
2. The amendment filed is sufficient to overcome the rejection of claims 1, 6-11, 16-21, 26-31, and 36-40 based upon the Applicants arguments that the previous Office Action is deficient because it fails to demonstrate that all claim limitations are taught or suggested by the prior art.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claim 1, 11, 21, and 31 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prasad et al. (US 2003/0016684), hereinafter referred to as Prasad.

Regarding claims 1, 11, 21, and 31, Prasad discloses a routing table configured for storing message class entries identifying respective message classes, each message class entry specifying at least one destination link identifier for a corresponding destination link assigned to the corresponding message class (**figure 4 unit 210 & figure 5 and column pages 2-3 paragraphs 0030-0033; a SS7 signal**

specifies routing codes as a destination addresses and associates the routing codes to routing contexts stored in a routing table); and a processor configured for selecting one of the destination links based on classifying the received signaling message as assigned to the corresponding message class, based on prescribed message class selection criteria **(figure 4 unit 200 and pages 2-3 paragraphs 0030-0033; a processor transmits the SS7 signal to a destination after determining the specific routing contexts and their associated routing codes).** As the Examiner interprets the claims in their broadest sense, the “routing context” taught by Prasad could read on the “message class” disclosed by the Applicant.

4. Claims 6-7, 16-17, 26-27, and 36-37 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prasad et al. (US 2003/0016684), hereinafter referred to as Prasad, in view of Jeong (US 5912,628), hereinafter referred to as Jeong.

Regarding claims 6, 16, 26, and 36, Prasad discloses the limitations of the base claims.

Prasad fails to teach wherein the processor is configured for classifying the received signaling message based on prescribed user-selected selection criteria.

Jeong discloses a method of transmitting a signal message where a link for transmission is selected using a criterion that classifies the message into two types **(column 3 lines 12-17).**

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the method of classifying a message taught by

Jeong into the processor of the signal transfer point disclosed by Prasad. The motivation for such a modification being an improved method of selecting a link for the transmission of a signal message.

Regarding claims 7, 17, 27, and 37, Prasad discloses the limitations of the base claims.

Prasad fails to teach wherein the user-selected selection criteria includes a user-selected data pattern.

Jeong discloses the criterion used for classifying a signal message is obtained by dividing a value contained in the signal message by two, wherein the value is the decimal equivalent of the binary code for the signal message (**column 3 lines 12-17**).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the method of classifying a message taught by Jeong into the processor of the signal transfer point disclosed by Prasad. The motivation for such a modification being an improved method of selecting a link for the transmission of a signal message.

5. Claims 8, 18, 28 and 38 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prasad et al. (US 2003/0016684), hereinafter referred to as Prasad, in view of Allison et al. (US 2004/0081206), hereinafter referred to as Allison.

Regarding claims 8, 18, 28, and 38, Prasad discloses the limitations of the base claims.

Prasad fails to teach wherein the processor is configured for classifying the received signaling message based on a service indicator value from the received signaling message.

Allison discloses a signaling gateway routing node that includes a discrimination function that examines a service indicator parameter in the received message to determine the type of message (**page 4 column 0034**).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the method of the discrimination function taught by Allison into the processor of the signal transfer point disclosed by Prasad. The motivation for such a modification being an improved for service selection in a telecommunications signaling network.

6. Claims 9-10, 19-20, 29-30, and 39-40 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prasad et al. (US 2003/0016684), hereinafter referred to as Prasad, in view of Lee (US 2001/0008532), hereinafter referred to as Lee.

Regarding claims 9, 19, 29, and 39, Prasad discloses the limitations of the base claims.

Prasad fails to teach wherein the processor is configured for classifying the received signaling message based on global title translation (GTT) parameters retrieved from the received signaling message.

Lee discloses Lee discloses a No. 7 gateway that provides global title translation services represented by unique numbers (**page 1 paragraph 0006**) where theses services are classified according to these values (**page 1 paragraph 0007**).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the method of the No. 7 gateway taught by Lee into the processor of the signal transfer point disclosed by Prasad. The motivation for such a modification being an improved method of a mapping function for different translation types in a No. 7 gateway signaling network.

Regarding claims 10, 20, 30, and 40, Prasad discloses the limitations of the base claims.

Prasad fails to teach wherein the processor classifies the received message based on a Global Title Address (GTA) from the GTT parameters.

Lee discloses that global title translation services are represented by unique numbers that are used for classification (**page paragraph 0006-0007**). As the Examiner interprets the claims in their broadest sense, the “unique numbers” taught by Lee could read on the “GTA” disclosed by the Applicant.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the method of the No. 7 gateway taught by Lee into the processor of the signal transfer point disclosed by Prasad. The motivation for such a modification being an improved method of a mapping function for different translation types in a No. 7 gateway signaling network.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 2-5, 12-15, 22-25, and 32-35 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments, see pages 10-15, filed February 17, 2006, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1, 6-11, 16-21, 26-31, and 36-40 under 35 USC 103 (a) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Prasad et al. (US 2003/0016684) and Allison et al. (US 2004/0081206).

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

a) Ramos et al. (US 2002/0186702), Method and Apparatus for Selecting a Link Set

b) Bordonaro et al. (US 2006/0078008), Arrangement for Controlling Congestion in an SS7 Signaling Node Based on Packet Classification

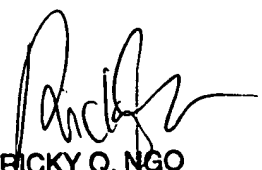
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10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Feben M. Haile whose telephone number is (571) 272-3072. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:00am - 3:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ricky Ngo can be reached on (571) 272-3139. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

ftt 06/21/2006


RICKY Q. NGO
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER